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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

International Application No. : PCT/EP2003/007194

Application No. : To Be Assigned  
First Named Inventor : Alexander JURMANN  
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Docket No. : 038724.55803US  
Customer No. : 23911

Title : VACUUM CARBURIZING METHOD AND DEVICE

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Please enter the following amendments to the specification and claims abstract prior to the examination of the application.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Abstract** begin on page 6 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.